

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01 /080 W

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R 290807Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1418

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8897

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR HK

SUBJECT: HKG OFFICIAL DENIES PRC INVOLVEMENT IN DRUG TRAFFIC

1. A SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST ARTICLE OF JULY 28 REPORTS THAT AT A LUNCHEON YESTERDAY COMMISSIONER FOR NARCOTICS E. I. LEE STRESSED THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER LINKING THE PRC WITH INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. LEE HAD BEEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE RECENT SEIZURES OF NARCOTICS IN MOSCOW AND NOTED THAT A PORTION OF THE ASIAN DRUG FLOW TO EUROPE NOW SEEMED TO BE PASSING THROUGH THE SOVIET UNION. LEE SAID THAT THE TRAFFICKERS ARE CONSTANTLY "LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF CONVEYING DRUGS FROM PRODUCING AREAS TO CONSUMING AREAS.Z

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, LEE NOTED "WITH DISTASTE" THAT THE SOVIETS HAD ATTEMPTED TO TURN THIS INTO AN ANTI-CHINESE PROPAGANDA ITEM BY CLAIMING THAT THE PRC WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPORT OF THE DRUGS USING HONG KONG AS A TRANSIT POINT. REGARDING NARCOTICS, LEE SAID THAT THE CHINESE RECORD HAS BEEN "VERY HONORABLE."

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3. COMMENT: LEE'S REMARKS ARE A PUBLIC EXPOSITION OF THE LONG-STANDING HKG ANALYSIS OF INTELLIGENCE ON THE FLOW OF DRUGS INTO HONG KONG. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGEN OFFICERS, LEE HAS DISMISSED CHARGES CONCERNING PRC INVOLVEMENT AS TOTALLY UNSUBSTANTIATED. LEE'S PUBLIC EMPHASIS AT THIS TIME SEEMS DESIGNED TO REASSURE THE PRC THAT THE HKG DOES NOT BELIEVE ACCUSATIONS SUCH AS THE RECENT SOVIET ONES, AND POSSIBLY TO ALLAY ANY CHINESE FEARS THAT THE HKG WAS THE SOURCE FOR THE KREMLIN'S JAB AT PEKING.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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